



# Choose Environmental Excellence Awards

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## Past to Present

### 2002

- Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized Pleasant Hope High School Stream Team.
- Ozark Greenways, Inc recognized City Utilities of Springfield Transit Division
- The Solid Waste Management District "O" sponsored three awards: Mike Inman, City of Springfield, Bette Houzenga, Ed and Pat Garton, City of Ozark Post Office, and Ray Birchler and Greene County Maintenance Staff.
- Barbara Lucks recognized Cheryl "Shae" Johnson, 4th Grade teacher at Greenwood Lab School with the Environmental Educator Award.
- A presentation of the first Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods yard sign to Dick Lawless was also a part of the awards ceremony.

### 2003

- Ozark Greenways, Inc. recognized Mike Mitchell
- Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized Willard High School teacher Diane Crain
- Solid Waste Management District "O" Advisory Board presented their award to Ann Carter, Education Director, Discovery Center

### 2004—1st Year at Chamber

- Ozark Greenways recognized John Haik, owner of Ozark Adventures.
- Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized Mike Penprase and News-Leader.
- Solid Waste Management District "O" Advisory Board recognized Ken Reiss, Computer Recycling Center.
- Barbara Lucks recognized Dr. Melida Gutierrez, Associate Professor at SMSU with the Environmental Educator Award.
- Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Northstar Battery Company

### 2005

- Ozark Greenways recognized Towe Construction Company.
- Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized the Discovery Center of Springfield.
- Solid Waste Management District "O" Advisory Board members recognized the efforts of Ozarks Correctional Center, (OCC), Fordland.
- Barbara Lucks recognized Joe Pitts, Department of Natural Resources Environmental Education Unit with the Environmental Educator Award.
- Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Chamber Member Nestle Purina PetCare.

### 2006

- Ozark Greenways recognized Kennedy Contractors
- Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized Judson Whitlinger, recently retired from the City of Springfield's Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant

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- Solid Waste Management District "O" Advisory Board recognized Phillip Lingard, Sr., Executive Director of Enterprises Unlimited
- The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board recognized Energy Star Homebuilders Lance Wright, Scott Kisling and Lloyd Babcock
- The Tree City USA Citizen's Advisory Committee recognized the neighborhood groups that have participated in the NeighborWoods Program
- Barbara Lucks recognized Marie Steinwachs, Director of the Office of Waste Management for University of Missouri Extension with the Environmental Educator Award. Sixty area dentists were recognized through the Greene county Dental Society for their commitment mercury amalgam recycling as a result of Ms. Steinwachs efforts.

## **2007**

- Ozark Greenways recognized the Storm Tree Team. The Team included: Noel Boyer with A&A Tree Service, Kevin Harrell with ArborCare of the Ozarks and Tim Crews with Ryan's Lawn and Tree Services
- Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized the Green Circle Team for their Developer of the Year Award and the Rader Family Farm for their LandOwner of the Year Award
- Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board recognized Elizabeth Aull, Recycling Coordinator of Nestle Purina PetCare Company-- There was a special service award given to Greene County Resource Manager and Waste District "O" Chair, Tim Smith
- The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board recognized St. John's Regional Health Center, represented by Bob Norton, David Gollhofer and Randy Scott
- The Tree City USA Citizen's Advisory Committee recognized Springfield Public Works staff Joe Payne, Operations Supervisor and Alan Moore, Urban Forester, for their efforts during and following the January Ice Storm.
- Barbara Lucks recognized Jay Barber, Conservation Education Consultant with the Missouri Department of Conservation
- The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Chamber member The Discovery Center of Springfield
- Special Presentation/Award:
- Amy Bhesania, representing Region 7, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognized City Utilities of Springfield as a Blue Skyways Partner and the City of Springfield was recognized as a Blue Skyways Community for efforts to participate in the Blue Skyways Collaborative.

## **2008**

- The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized Millsap Farms of Springfield with their Agriculture Award and the environmental consulting firm of EMSI for their Business Award.
- Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board recognized Sarah Davis with their 2008 Environmental Service Award.
- The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board recognized Black Oak Organics and Innoviro, two businesses that are very much a part of the Green movement here in Springfield, Missouri.
- The Tree City USA Citizen's Advisory Committee recognized KOLR-Channel 10 for their leadership and support of the Re-Forest the Ozarks Project.
- The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce recognized the Home Builders Association of Greater Springfield.
- The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society recognized Kay Johnson, Volunteer Coordinator for the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society, for the hundreds of hours he has devoted to conservation in the Ozarks by awarding him the Greater Ozarks Audubon's "Life Award for Environmental Excellence.

## **2009**

- Ozark Greenways, Inc. recognized Hood-Rich Architecture and Engineers. Since the inception of Ozark Greenways in 1989, the staff and partners of Hood-Rich Architecture & Engineers have been involved with the advancement of our community's greenway system, both in professional design and community support.
- The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized Price-Cutter Stores, which have implemented a large number of Eco-Friendly Actions, including composting food wastes, promoting reusable cloth grocery bags, recycling cardboard and reducing electricity use.
- Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board recognized the Urban Districts Alliance for their Downtown Glass Recycling Project. The program was launched in August, 2008, after the Urban Districts Alliance received a grant from the Waste District.
- The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board recognized Matt O'Reilly, Owner of Dynamic Earth and Green Circle Shopping Center. Matt is a purposeful businessman that has taken the lead in developing green building in the Ozark's by pushing the envelope with the soon to be LEED Platinum certified Green Shopping Center.
- The City of Springfield's Tree City USA Citizen's Advisory Committee recognized Friends of the Garden. Founded in 2000, Friends of the Garden has worked tirelessly to establish and facilitate a Botanical Center, gardens, and arboretum at Springfield's Close Botanical Gardens, Lake Drummond, Nathanael Greene, and Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden.
- The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Chamber member Southern Missouri Container's Packaging Group with their "Choose Environmental Excellence" Business Award.
- The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society recognized Sue Schuble as the recipient of this year's Conservation Environmental Excellence award. She is a previous Vice President and President of the Chapter and presently a member of the Board of Directors.
- Barbara Lucks Environmental/Conservation Education Award was presented to the Springfield Conservation Nature Center. Last October, the Nature Center celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their opening. Since 1988, nearly 2.1 million visitors have toured the facility to learn about conservation and to discover nature through first-hand experiences.
- Community Partnership of the Ozarks Environmental Collaborative recognized Loring Bullard, Executive Director of the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks for a long and successful career. Mr. Bullard is known for his passion for clean water. He has worked with the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks since 1989.

## **2010**

- The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized Sue Dyle, Rebecca Zigler and Misty Mitchell for their dedication to the WOLF (Wonders of the Outdoors Learning Facility) school.
- Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board recognized Greenway Recycling and Fiber Management for their support and assistance given to District "O" recycling centers which have made the availability of recycling services possible to the 23 cities in the 5-county area served by the Waste District -Christian, Dallas, Polk, Webster, Greene.
- The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance, a subcommittee of the Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, recognized Springfield R-12 and Rogersville Schools, for their efforts in retrofitting school buses to reduce diesel emissions resulting in benefits to both the riders of the buses and overall air quality.
- The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board recognized Dan Chiles, Springfield Mayor Pro-tem, for his leadership, public service and private sector commitment to environmental protection.

- The City of Springfield's Tree City USA Citizen's Advisory Committee recognized Abbe Ehlers, former Committee Chair, for her long-term advocacy and efforts to preserve and protect Springfield's urban forest.
- The Partnership for Sustainability presented their Environmental Excellence Award to BKD, LLP recognizing their commitment to environmental sustainability. BKD, LLP is also the first business to earn the "Green Level" or highest environmental rating of the Ozarks GreenScore program.
- The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society recognized Charles Burwick as the recipient of their Conservation Environmental Excellence award.
- Community Partnership of the Ozarks Environmental Collaborative recognized Doug Neidigh, Drury University's Ozarks Center for Sustainable Solutions and Natasha Longpine, Ozarks Transportation Organization, for their leadership and fostering of collaboration to protect and enhance the air quality of the region.

## **2011**

- The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized the City of Willard for their proactive approach to safeguarding drinking water sources for their citizens.
- Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board recognized Brad Leonard, a Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) employee and a member of the Missouri National Guard.
- The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance, a subcommittee of the Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, presented two awards. Ozarks Transportation Organization was selected for outstanding leadership in air pollution prevention by developing and implementing the web-based Ride Share program found at [www.ozarkscommute.com](http://www.ozarkscommute.com). They also recognized Wil Fisher Distributors for outstanding leadership in air pollution prevention by creating on-site production of bio diesel, a new initiative for the distributing company.
- The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board recognized Mike Kromrey, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, for his dedication to the health of our environment and his gracious public service and undying commitment to environmental protection.
- The City of Springfield's Tree City USA Citizen's Advisory Committee recognized Bill Roach and Phil Broyles. Bill Roach, a Springfield/Greene County Parks Department employee came out of retirement to help with the aftermath of the 2007 ice storm and stayed on with the Public Works Department, working and volunteering on his own time to protect the urban forest in Springfield. Phil Broyles, Springfield Public Works Co-Interim Director was recognized for his continued support of Springfield's urban forest and of the Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee.
- The Partnership for Sustainability presented their Environmental Excellence Award to Wil Fischer companies recognizing their innovative and successful fleet of alternative fuel vehicles.
- The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society recognized Dave Catlin as the recipient of their Environmental Excellence award. He has been an active member of the organization for over 10 years, providing leadership and fundraising talent, including the creation of an endowment for GOAS with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and several successful grant proposals.
- Ozark Greenways, Inc. recognized the Central High School Environmental Club for their entrepreneurial spirit and initiative exhibited by forming their club, volunteering, and taking the responsibility to learn about business and the environment.
- Community Partnership of the Ozarks Environmental Collaborative recognized Dave Coonrod for decades of dedication to the protection of the natural environment of the Ozarks. His service includes volunteer work, work as an elected official and as the first Executive Director of the then newly formed Watershed Committee of the Ozarks.
- Springfield Plateau Chapter Missouri Master Naturalists recognized Bob Kipfer for his efforts in a leadership role in several organizations dedicated to furthering conservation of the natural environment, including offering his picturesque private residence, abundant with flora and fauna as a meeting and educational location.

## 2012

- The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized the Environmental Section of Greene County's Resource Management Department for their exceptional staff of hard working professionals who administer the County's Stormwater, sinkhole, erosion and sediment control, floodplain and on-site wastewater system regulations.
- Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board members recognized Mr. Loring Bullard for his exemplary work in water conservation and water quality; however, District O selected Mr. Bullard as their 2012 ESA recipient due to his dedication to recycling and recycling education, as so visibly demonstrated by the Community Room at the C.W. Titus Education Facility at the Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill Park.
- The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board recognized Melissa and Adam Millsap. The Millsaps started their Urban Roots Farm near downtown Springfield in 2010 on a one acre plot. They have grown this project and their mission of educating the community on sound urban gardening into a huge community affair. The Millsaps have demonstrated and offered many green opportunities in Springfield including composting brewery waste, farmers market organic produce, free range eggs, and education to the next generation of urban agriculturists.
- The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance, a subcommittee of the Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, recognized Rick Hughlett, founder and owner of Rick's Automotive, for his support and voluntary activities that have helped raise the awareness of the local connection between mobile sources (such as cars and trucks) and air quality, particularly ground-level ozone. He has participated in Earth Day activities – offering free emissions testing and is currently including information about the importance of well-maintained vehicles in protecting our air quality.
- The Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee recognized Bridget Dierks and Jerry Monterastelli. Bridget Dierks was recognized for her instrumental work in initiating the Tree Tag Project – whereby large plastic signs are tied to trees showing the tree's dollar value in terms of temperature moderation, stormwater management and other factors. Bridget was involved in the grant process, conducted the research necessary for the value of the trees, developed the tags, and established the website "This Tree Pays". This project was successful primarily due to Bridget's efforts.

Jerry Monterastelli was recognized by the Tree City, USA, Citizens Advisory Committee for his courageous assistance with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Jerry came out of retirement to help Springfield/Greene County Parks in the immediate aftermath of the devastating 2007 ice storm assessing tree damage and coordination of cleanup work. Then, in 2008, Jerry was called back for a second tour of duty in assisting the City of Springfield Public Works Department with reforestation efforts. Most recently, Jerry has worked as a volunteer in conducting an extensive tree inventory for the Springfield National Cemetery.

- The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society recognized Greg Swick for being an active member of the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society for a number of years, and for his service in a variety of capacities – as a Board member, committee chair and volunteer. His pinnacle achievement, however, has been his leadership of the Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems or "GLADE". This educational program for high school students interested in conservation, now entering its fourth year, has taught and inspired teens to assume leadership roles in their communities and to generate volunteer projects of their own throughout the Ozarks. He not only served as the Director of GLADE for all four years, but also as its webmaster, public spokesperson, chief fundraiser, meeting host, cheerleader and philosophical compass
- The Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks recognized Dr. Dave Fraley, Director of Environmental Affairs for City Utilities of Springfield and Barbara Lucks, Interim Sustainability Officer, City of Springfield.

Dr. Dave Fraley was recognized for his long-time efforts to raise awareness of air quality and encourage efforts to protect the air quality of our region. As a founding member of the Ozarks Clean Air Alliance and active member of the CPO Environmental Collaborative, Dave has always been at the

forefront of efforts to bring accurate and useful information to the community and to foster cooperation among the many stakeholders who share a determination to help the community understand the air quality challenges facing us. While he is being recognized for his role in air quality protection, Dave is also an avid recycler and is personally committed to many other environmentally responsible practices.

Barbara Lucks was recognized for her extensive career in working to protect our natural environment, particularly for her efforts in bringing people together and fostering communication and collaboration. Her creation and continuation of the Annual Awards Luncheon and service on the Environmental Collaborative was also recognized.

- Springfield Plateau Chapter Missouri Master Naturalists recognized Joe Kleiber, member of Master Naturalists since 2005. He is an active volunteer, regularly attends advanced training opportunities to increase his knowledge of the natural world. In addition to his activism in Master Naturalists, he is a member of the Christian County Master Gardeners, James River Basin Partnership, Friends of the Garden (board), Christian County Extension Board (elected commissioner) and Nixa Azalea Association, as well as a volunteer for Springfield-Greene County Parks and Recreation.
- Ozarks Green Building Coalition recognized Zach Miller, REALTOR® with Murney & Associates and GSBOR Green Committee Chair, for his outstanding service to the community, to sustainability and to the real estate buying and selling population of the Ozarks. Miller spearheaded and coordinated the research and detailed work that resulted in the "Green Multi-list®", an addition to the Greater Springfield Board of REALTORS® Multi-List System (GSBOR-MLS). One of the few Boards in the nation with this service, the website also provides information and education on "green" features and practices and what that means on a practical level in homes and buildings, as well as links to other local "green" sites and immediate assistance to the real estate buying public.
- Missouri State University Sustainability Advisory Committee recognized The Missouri State University Student Government Association for exhibiting a sustained commitment to environmental excellence, programming that makes an impact on environmental excellence and outcomes that indicate that their efforts are making a difference. Examples of their commitment include: supporting and passing the 2009 student vote of a \$3/semester fee to fund Sustainability projects on campus and subsequent use of those funds for the baseline sustainability survey, completed in the Spring of 2011, whereby MSU earned the Bronze STAR rating via the American Association for Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System (AASHE STARS). Other projects funded by the fee included enhancing recycling efforts on campus by hiring student workers and purchasing an electric service vehicle. A successful Campus Garden project, water conservation kits for the university residence halls, installation of water fountains to re-fill plastic drinking water bottles and the purchase of additional bike racks are examples of some of their projects.

## **2013**

- The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized Rick Scarlet and Gloria Johnson for their 2013 Choose Environmental excellence Award. Rick and Gloria have taken their nearly 100-year-old bungalow in the Rountree Neighborhood and made it much more water and energy efficient, and they have also added significant renewable energy generation capabilities. The achievement specifically highlighted was their rainwater harvesting system, reducing the amount of stormwater from their property by using that water for some of their needs, offsetting their demand on the public water supply. They are local leaders in sustainability and share their experiences with others who want to learn. Rick Scarlet accepted the award. (Contact: Mike Kromrey 417-866-1127)
- Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board recognized two individuals at this year's awards. David Doherty received the first Environmental Service Award (ESA). Mr. Doherty is the General Manager of Web-Co Custom Industries, Inc., a sheltered workshop for disabled employees. Web-Co's mission is to improve the landscape by promoting recycling in their area, "to reinvent" recycled items into something useful and sustainable for our environment, and to provide continued employment opportunities for the disabled citizens of Webster County. In July 2009, Web-Co assumed operation of the Warren Beck Memorial Recycling Center in Marshfield and began a substantial expansion of recycling efforts in Webster County and, additionally, throughout the entire

District O region. Under David's tenure, Web-Co has grown from a 1,000 square foot facility to over 20,000 square feet in size and has seen a substantial increase in the number of individual citizens who utilize the recycling center. In addition to providing stable employment for disabled workers, Web-Co has also helped implement sustainable recycling infrastructure in this area by assisting the City of Rogersville with their recycling efforts. David's cooperative attitude and willingness to help other entities in our area has served as a valuable resource for the District. David Doherty and Gary Alexander accepted the award.

Ronda Long (Gulley) was chosen by the Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board to receive their second Environmental Service Award (ESA) for her excellent service of more than ten years as Waste District "O" Associate District Planner. Ronda's service has included administrative functions supporting the Executive Board and administering the district grants. (Contact: Robert Hamilton 417-859-5786)

- The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board recognized Springfield Public Schools for their district wide sustainability initiatives. Director of Facilities, Dave Bishop, has implemented numerous energy efficiency measures to drive down energy use and costs, literally saving hundreds of thousands of community tax dollars. SPS has implemented a successful district-wide recycling program, green housekeeping program and has partnered with the Springfield Urban Agricultural Coalition to install gardens at 10 or more schools, providing educational opportunities to school youth by producing and consuming local sustainable-grown foods. In 2007, the School Board adopted guidelines for all new schools to be designed to achieve LEED Silver certification. In 2010, the new Hickory Hills K-8 School became the first LEED Certified School in the District's portfolio, and three more are currently in construction. SPS is a member of the Partnership for Sustainability, supporting the exploration and implementation of sustainable practices throughout the community. Dave Bishop accepted the award. (Contact: Barbara Lucks - 417- 864-2005)
- The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance, a subcommittee of the Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, recognized Tiffany Drake, P.E., the former Chief of the State Implementation Plan Unit in the Air Quality Planning Section of Missouri Department of Natural Resources. In that capacity, Ms. Drake was instrumental in providing public outreach and education on air issues facing Greene County and Southwest Missouri. This, in turn, helped OCAA motivate local stakeholders in developing a voluntary action plan. Tiffany's active involvement in the process is emblematic of the Air Pollution Control Program's community-based facilitation approach to local air issues. This refreshing approach was instituted by Leanne Tippet Mosby as DNR Air Director and continues today under Kyra Moore, P.E. Recently, Ms. Drake moved on to accept other responsibilities in DNR's Hazardous Waste Section. Accordingly, OCAA saw fit this year to honor her efforts in Southwest Missouri and throughout the state toward securing our air quality future. (Contact: Barbara Lucks - 417-864-2005)
- The Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee gave two awards at this year's event. The first award went to Missouri State University. Missouri State University President, Clif Smart has demonstrated his commitment to sustainability by appointing a Sustainability Advisory Committee comprised of key personnel from all functional areas of the University plus community representation, also including students who will carry the banner for sustainability far into the future. This Committee provided the guidance to establish MSU as a Tree Campus USA member. John Clark, Assistant Director of Facilities Management for Grounds Services accepted the award.

The second award went to Dr. Janice Greene, faculty member in the Department of Biology at Missouri State University. She has served on the TCUSACAC first as a member, and then as chairman, during which time she developed the Tree Species List for the City of Springfield. In addition, other involvements which are reflective of her passion for trees and environmental conservation, include her status as Co-Founder and Co-Director of GLADE (Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems), and Director of the Bull Shoals Field Station, where she has expanded the station's outreach and established a growing network of conservation partners and supporters. She has facilitated efforts to research Ozarks ecosystems, to restore critical habitat, to prepare educators for the science classroom, and to identify and train youth conservation leaders of tomorrow. She also

conducts workshops in Project Learning Tree, Project WILD and Project WET, all national environmental education programs. (Contacts: Casey Kellner – 864-1135, Benjamin Kellner – 417-864-1178)

- The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society (GOAS) recognized Myra Scroggs for their Choose Environmental Excellence Award. Myra has been a long-time member and volunteer with GOAS. She stepped down from a position on the organization's Board just this month, after serving 10 years in a variety of positions, including two as President. Much of her work has been behind the scenes, however. She has spearheaded the organization's recent work protecting the upper reaches of South Creek in Springfield, overseen the Audubon Adventures education program, and helped reinvigorate the club's annual Birdathon fundraiser. Always quick to volunteer, Myra has contributed hundreds of hours of time to support Audubon's work conserving birds and their habitats in southwest Missouri. Dave Catlin accepted the award on Myra's behalf. (Contact: Dave Catlin at 417-889-9940)
- The Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks recognized Ann Wallenmeyer for their award. From the moment Ann became Science Facilitator for Springfield Public Schools, she made a positive difference in our community. She facilitates science for K-12 students and teachers. One of her passions is to be a lifelong learner and she passes that on to anyone with whom she works. She is active in the Springfield community – an excellent representative of R-12. She has been a part of the Environmental Collaborative since taking her current position and has been instrumental – working with OCAA and City staff – in the development and implementation of a comprehensive teaching unit on air quality that will be presented to teachers via workshops this summer with classroom roll-out coming this fall. She is an asset to the Collaborative and to the community she serves. Ann is at a conference in Denver and couldn't be present to accept the award. Pat Quick will be accepting on her behalf. (Contact: Barbara Lucks – 417-864-2005)
- Ozark Greenways, Inc. recognized Martin MacDonald, a long time supporter and friend of trails and the greenway movement in Springfield. While Martin MacDonald has supported Ozark Greenways activities thru his association with Bass Pro, he was recognized and thanked for his individual and personal interest in Greenways projects, activities, and the Ozark Greenway mission of *"Preserving and protecting the Ozarks' natural heritage"*.

Martin's interest in protecting the outdoors as a resource is balanced with his own interest in seeing people properly use, and enjoy the resources which nature has provided. He has been the vision behind the Bass Pro Fitness Festival which started as a local 5-K race on the South Creek Greenway to benefit Ozark Greenways. Today this event and its month long menus of fitness and outdoor skill activities have become a major destination event for the Springfield community, and an inspiration for local residents to get fit and take on one of the many fitness challenges the festival offers. Terry Whaley accepted the award on Martin's behalf. (Contact: Terry Whaley at 417-864-2014)

- Springfield Plateau Chapter Missouri Master Naturalists recognized Bob Korpella as their award Honoree. Bob is a most deserving Conservationist. Bob has developed a Master Naturalist Aquatic Trunk and has taught several programs on mammals, insects, and aquatic Life. Bob serves on a Stream Team and is Chair of our Master Naturalist Program Committee. (Contact: Jennifer Ailor at 417-581-4018)
- Ozarks Green Building Coalition recognized Dave Lowry as their 2013 recipient. Mr. Lowry had a dream for many years of a way to get at-risk students involved in a local neighborhood improvement project. With the collaboration of Ozarks Technical Community College, the Division of Youth Services, the City of Springfield, plus civic, community and business leaders, this dream is coming true. Funded by a HUD grant obtained by the City of Springfield and a private contributions, students from both OTC and youth services will receive class credit and a small hourly wage for their work that will include landscaping, sheet rocking, tiling, putting up siding and other basic carpentry work – constructing a 1500-square-foot home, with expected building cost of \$95,000 on North Clay Avenue. Other homes are expected to be constructed and the Urban Neighborhoods Alliance will sell the homes. (Contact: Zach Miller at 417-861-0307)
- Missouri State University Sustainability Advisory Committee recognized Missouri State University's Residence Life, Housing and Dining Services, a unit in the Division of Student Affairs, for their



leadership in the area of sustainability for a number of years. They have a strong recycling program, look for operational changes that help them be more sustainable, and organize a number of events and programs that educate and encourage sustainability. This Residence Life student group is also responsible for implementing and maintaining the campus Green Bike program. They make bikes available to students at a very low cost to encourage sustainable transportation.

The Director of Residence Life, Housing and Dining Services, Gary Stewart, has empowered the following individuals that have directly impacted the overall sustainability efforts of the department: Teresa Frederick and Angela Strider. And without the support of custodial services, maintenance staff, a positive partnership with Dining Services, and key student leaders, Brittany Miller, Zachery Holder, Jessica Yates, Erin Murray\*, Jon Stubblefield\*, and Anthony Jimenez\* these things would not be possible. \*Graduated – Members of the team accepted the award (Contact: Ken McClure, Vice President for Administrative and Information Services at 417-836-5233 or Tamera Jahnke, Dean, College of Natural and Applied Sciences at 417-836-5249)

- Partnership for Sustainability recognized Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) for their proactive efforts in sustainability management. DFA has demonstrated leadership through aggressive, yet sensible, improvements to their operations and policies resulting in significant reductions in their energy and water consumption and the elimination of tons of waste from the landfill. Their efforts include, among others, innovative water reuse projects, lighting retrofits, glass recycling equipment installation, process improvements, and employee engagement programs. As a result of their ongoing efforts and dedicated Sustainability Team, they have risen from Bronze to Green level recognition in Ozarks GreenScore in a little over a year, serving as a clear demonstration of their leadership and commitment to making the Ozarks a sustainable place to live, work, and play. The DFA Sustainability Team accepted the award. (Contact: Amy Strickland at 417-873-7054)
- James River Basin Partnership recognized Douglas Hurrelbrink to receive their “Water Warrior Award”. Douglas was chosen because of his dedication to clean water and the environment. Mr. Hurrelbrink had been a member since 2009 and has given over \$2,000 to the partnership. He is the owner and operator of Austin's Pumping Service located in Strafford, Missouri and he has charitably donated funds in support of JRBP's mission.

In addition to the above, Douglas has been working in the local community to bring awareness to non-point source pollution by providing expert advice to homeowners about septic systems. He diligently educates people about water quality and provides services while always keeping the environment a priority. His certifications are: Greene County and Missouri State Certified Septic Installer & Inspector, Missouri State Water Well Inspector, and Certified Backflow Technician. Mr. and Mrs. Hurrelbrink accepted the award. (Contact: Melissa Bettes, Project Manager, at 417-836-4847)

## **2014**

- The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks recognized Commercial Metals Company (CMC) for their 2014 award. Commercial Metals Company has grown into an industry leader whose success has been built by committing to the highest ethical, legal, environmental, safety and customer service standards. This ongoing commitment is exhibited by the CMC facility in downtown Springfield near Hammons Field. Millions of pounds of “scrap” metal from Springfield and the surrounding area are safely and efficiently processed by CMC so this valuable resource can be recycled. In addition to providing this service since 1915, CMC has also recently become a sustaining sponsor of the Watershed Committee on the Ozarks in honor of WCO's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of protecting the community's drinking water. Paul Obermann, Industrial Buyer, accepted the award. (Contact: Mike Kromrey 417-866-1127)
- Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board members recognized Robert Meredith for their Environmental Service Award. Mr. Meredith is no stranger to recycling. For years, his family has owned and operated a large ferrous metal and automobile recycling operation in Montrose, Missouri. In 2011, Robert left the family business and constructed his own recycling operation in Halfway, Missouri. His business, Big Dog Recycling, began operation in December, 2011, and for the

first few months was primarily a ferrous metals recycler. Since then, they have rapidly expanded into a full-service recycling processor, primarily servicing Polk, Dallas, and northern Greene County. Big Dog recycles several hundred tons of metals, plastics, paper and cardboard each month. In 2014, they assumed the operation of the Polk County Recycling Center, relieving the Polk County Commission of the responsibility and the expense. Big Dog Recycling fills the much needed role of a full-service recycling processor in the northern portion of the District "O" service region. (Contact: Robert Hamilton 417-859-5786)

- The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board recognized David Hutchison, City of Springfield Traffic Engineer, for their 2014 award. David Hutchison was recognized for his non-stop efforts to engage the public in working to make the City safer for all modes of transportation. He has been creating the City's Person Mobility Plan, the goal of which is to make Springfield transportation choices more affordable and obtainable. He has worked with a variety of partners to enable Springfield to become and retain the status of a "Bicycle Friendly Community" as named by the League of American Bicyclists. David is a board member of Ozark Greenways and a founding member of the Ozark Greenways Sustainable Transportation Advocacy Resource Team – the STAR Team – and has had a key role in the development of the City's LINK bicycling route. He is a member of the League of American Bicyclists and holds certification as a League Cycling Instructor – the only nationwide cycling instructor certification program. He has been recognized with the 2012 Distinguished Service Award by the Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation. (Contact: Barbara Lucks – 417- 864-2005)
- The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance, a subcommittee of the Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks (OCAA), recognized KOLR-10, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the US Environmental Protection Agency for their awards this year. KOLR-10 was recognized for their on-going support of the Alliance's work to proactively raise awareness of air quality protection efforts within our region. In addition to KOLR-10 including air quality level readings with their daily weather programming and offering air quality-related features throughout the year, they are supportive of the Alliance's educational activities, allowing OCAA to reach a much broader audience than would be possible without KOLR-10's support. General Manager, Leo Henning, accepted the award for KOLR-10.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the US Environmental Protection Agency was recognized for their support of local efforts to improve and protect air quality via the funding and other assistance obtained through the National Clean Diesel Program. Since 2008, the Program has provided both state-allocation and nationally competitive grant funding, helping diesel fleet owners conduct projects that reduce air pollution, improve public health, conserve fuel, and in many instances, save money. In that time a little over \$3 million in grant funding was made available to southwest Missouri businesses and public institutions. This funding has helped 25 local school districts, 27 private businesses, 1 local government, and 1 state transportation entity reduce air pollution from buses and heavy-duty diesel trucks. Nationwide these projects have impacted more than 50,000 older diesel engines and reduced 203,000 tons of NOx (nitrogen oxide), 12,500 tons of PM (particulate matter), and created health benefits up to \$8.2 billion. Cynthia Davies, Regional Director, MDNR Southwest Regional Office accepted the awards. (Contact: Barbara Lucks – 417-864-2005)

- The Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee recognized Cindy Garner and Becky Volz to receive their award. Cindy Garner, an Urban Forester who has been with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for 13 years, was recognized by the committee. Prior to MDC, she was the Landscape Administrator for the City of Branson, during which enforcement of the Landscape "Tree" Ordinance was a major part of her job. As an Urban Forester with MDC, she assists cities and landowners by managing their urban forests, sometimes one tree at a time. Cindy provides tree education to both city/county government employees and to the general public, which includes diagnosis of insect and disease problems. She also manages a grant program (TRIM) which enables cities and towns to maintain and/or plant trees. Cindy offers assistance for Tree City USA, Tree Line, Tree City Campus programs and the annual Arbor Day Programs in the seven county area she serves. She has been and continues to be a tremendous resource for our community and for the Tree City

USA Citizens Advisory Committee. (Contacts: Casey Kellner – 864-1135, Benjamin Kellner – 417-864-1178)

Becky Volz was recognized for her work on the Woodland Heights NeighborWoods project. Becky volunteered to take charge of a very challenging project for the previous coordinator and neighborhood association board. She overcame the challenging issues and assembled a great project. It met all of the requirements for NeighborWoods and was a very well written essay. She presented the project to both Hillcrest High School and Central Bible College. She also knocked on doors and made phone calls to everyone impacted. On top of working on the NeighborWoods project, Becky assisted her ill parents, volunteered at Hillcrest High School daily, and managed a family business. Becky is active in her church and very passionate about improving her community. The Woodland Heights neighborhood has over 1600 homes. Therefore, Becky wrote the proposal to include multiple phases for Woodland Heights. Since Becky is unable to continue with the program (due to family and business commitments), she found an excellent replacement to continue her passion to improve the quality of her neighborhood. Her replacement is Mary Seneker. (Contact: Dave Catlin at 417-889-9940)

- The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society (GOAS) recognized Dan and Ann Liles for their award. Dan and Ann Liles were recognized for their long-standing efforts. They have been strong members and dependable volunteers in the Greater Ozarks Audubon. They have both served on the GOAS board – Ann as secretary for three years –and they have been GOAS program chairs for many years. They manage a bluebird trail on the OTC campus in Ozark as well as managing GOAS' major fundraiser, the annual fall birdseed sale. Their volunteerism helps make Springfield a strong community.
- The Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks recognized Melvin Johnson for their award. Melvin Johnson, recently retired from Springfield/Greene County Parks, was recognized for being instrumental in the establishment of the Parks Outdoor Initiatives program, showcasing the Park System's remarkable variety of outdoor educational experiences – everything from campfire cooking, to caving, canoeing – and he was also critical to the preservation of the 22 caves that are found on Springfield/Greene County Parks property. He has a special fondness for bats and is recognized as a resource on the protection, education and researching of endangered species bats – including colonies found in our Parks caves. He holds nearly 20 professional certifications – being recognized by organizations from the Missouri Department of Conservation to the National Rifle Association. Melvin's passion has always been bringing our youth and our magnificent out of doors together. He is active in a number of local and national organizations including Springfield Plateau Missouri Master Naturalist, Springfield Plateau Grotto, American Camping Association, Association of Missouri Interpreters, National Recreation and Park Association and others. (Contact: Barbara Lucks – 417-864-2005)
- Ozark Greenways, Inc. recognized Tom Netzer for their award. Tom Netzer was recognized for over 20 years of service to Ozark Greenways including serving as vice president, president, as well as assuming a leadership role on the 2001 capital campaign committee which successfully raised 1.5-million dollars to develop some of the first greenways and trails for our community. He also served on the original and now infamous Ozark Greenways Technical Committee which meets monthly to initiate, dissect and solve trail related development challenges. Toms' career at Conco Companies worked well in forming a partnership with Ozark Greenways and opened the door to resources which advanced the greenway movement in Springfield. Most notable were his engineering and professional contacts, a leading ingredient in the development of the Frisco Highline Trail, presently the second longest rail-trail in Missouri, and celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Currently Tom has stepped up to help lead a committee in the planning of the FHT's second 20 years as well as to be an advisor for the Ozark Greenways Trail of Tears project. (Contact: Terry Whaley at 417-864-2014)
- Springfield Plateau Chapter Missouri Master Naturalists recognized Carl Haworth as their award recipient. Carl, a past president of the chapter and best known as the bison expert, was recognized for his service. He has presented over 50 programs to schools and other groups throughout southwest Missouri, showcasing the many uses that Native Americans had for the bison – driving home the message of conserving our natural resources. Carl is a trained facilitator for Project Wild

(a wildlife focused conservation education program for grades K-12), Project WET (Water Education for Teachers, also for grades K-12), and Project Learning Tree (environmental/conservation education program for preschool – 12). Carl exemplifies the trained citizen volunteer educator who is passionate about preparing the next generation to accept and value the wonderful gift of our natural environment. (Contact: Barbara Lucks at 417-864-2005)

- Missouri State University Sustainability Advisory Committee recognized their Facilities Management Unit for their award. Missouri State University's Facilities Management, which is a unit of the Division of Administrative and Information Services, was recognized for the leadership role they have taken in the area of sustainability for a number of years. Fifteen years of major heating and cooling improvements and continual efficiency enhancements have resulted in greater than \$38 million of energy cost avoidance campus-wide. LED lighting retrofits have been made in buildings and a number of parking lots. A concerted effort is being made to educate the campus community to create energy consumption behavior changes. Custodial Services has changed protocols to reduce chemical cleaning methods and Grounds Services has planted over 150 trees in the past five years. The Director of Facilities Management, Bob Eckels, and Associate Director, Jen Cox, lead the unit with passion. Assistant directors supervise custodial, grounds and maintenance. (Contacts: Ken McClure at 417-836-5233 or Dr. Tamera Jahnke at 417-836-5249)
- Partnership for Sustainability recognized Stainless Technology as their award recipient this year. Stainless Technology, located in the Partnership Industrial Center (4420 E. Mustard Way), was recognized for accomplishments relating to energy conservation. They have completed extensive lighting upgrades in the past 12 months that will result in reducing their electric demand by 70 kW, and save about 312,800 kWh per year. This equals an annual cost savings of approximately \$22,550, with a project payback of less than 2 years. In addition, they have drastically improved their lighting quality. They have participated in CU's Commercial Lighting program for the past two years to achieve these savings. On short notice, Plant Manager Craig Burrell was unable to attend. (Contact: Ashley Fears at 417-864-2003)
- James River Basin Partnership recognized Larry O'Reilly for their award. Larry O'Reilly was chosen as a result of his dedication to clean water and to the protection of the natural environment. Mr. O'Reilly has been a JRBP member for many years. He owns and operates the River Bluff Farm in Stone County, along the James River. Over several years, he has worked to restore a prairie environment on the upland portions of his property. In addition, he worked with JRBP and Ozark Greenways to donate and establish a perpetual conservation easement on the riparian corridor along nearly 5 miles of the James River adjoining his farm. This easement made it possible for the organizations involved to do stream bank stabilization and to collect data to be used to model the protective value of such an easement. Because of his exceptional work and dedication to the protection, conservation, preservation and management of the James River, Larry O'Reilly was awarded the JRBP River Steward Award. (Contact: Melissa Bettes, Project Manager, at 417-836-4847)